

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 03465 012247Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AF-10 EA-09 /112 W  
-----020103Z 028735 /75

R 012225Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6247  
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
USUN NEW YORK 588  
AMCONSUL BELIZE

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 3465

E.O. 11652 NA  
TAGS: PBOR, GT, BH, UK  
SUBJ: BELIZE

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT LAUGERUD ANNOUNCED MAY 31 THAT NEXT NEGOTIATING SESSION WITH GREAT BRITAIN ON BELIZE WILL TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON DURING FIRST WEEK OF JULY. LAUGERUD REITERATED GOG POSITION THAT IF BRITAIN GRANTS INDEPENDENCE TO BELIZE WITHOUT NEGOTIATING A PRIOR SETTLEMENT WITH GUATEMALA, GUATEMALA WILL FIGHT. GOG HAS BEGUN A DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE ON BELIZE IN LATIN AMERICA, AND LATER TO OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, TO COUNTER A SIMILAR EFFORT BY BELIZE PRIME MINISTER PRICE. END SUMMARY.

2. JUNE 1 EDITION OF DAILY EL GRAFICO REPORTED THAT AT MAY 31 PRESS CONFERENCE FOR GROUP OF MEXICAN JOURNALISTS ATTENDING  
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ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, PRESIDENT LAUGERUD SAID THAT NEXT NEGOTIATING SESSION WITH GREAT BRITAIN WILL TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., THE FIRST WEEK IN JULY. LAUGERUD SAID HE HOPES THAT THIS MEETING WILL BRING A DEFINITIVE SOLUTION, BUT ADDED THAT GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMY HAVE MADE DECISION THAT THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE WILL NOT BE HUMILIATED AND THAT IF THERE IS A UNILATERAL

GRANT OF INDEPENDENCE THERE WILL BE AN ARMED CONFLICT WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

3. GRAFICO REPORTED LAUGERUD ALSO SAID THAT APART FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN, GUATEMALA WILL NOT ADMIT INTERFERENCE OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY, WHOEVER IT MAY BE. HE SAID GUATEMALA HOPES AN UNDERSTANDING CAN BE REACHED THROUGH CONSTRUCTIVE TALKS, AND FOR THAT REASON UP TO THE PRESENT GOG HAS NOT ASKED ANY COUNTRY FOR MEDIATION.

4. AFTERNOON DAILY EL IMPARCIAL REPORTED MAY 31 THAT GUATEMALA HAS INITIATED A "DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE" IN LATIN AMERICA TO WIN GREATER SUPPORT FOR GUATEMALA'S POSITION ON BELIZE AND TO COUNTER INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN OF PRIME MINISTER PRICE AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. TWO GUATEMALAN DELEGATIONS DEPARTED MAY 30. FIRST DELEGATION, COMPOSED OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER ROBERTO HERRERA IBARGUEN AND GENERAL RENE MENDOZA PALOMO, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR MILITARY STUDIES, LEFT FOR VENEZUELA, JAMAICA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, BARBADOS AND GRENADA. OTHER DELEGATION, COMPOSED OF DR. LUIS AYCINENA SALAZAR, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND COLONEL ARTURO PONCIANO SAMOYOA, THE RECENTLY RECALLED GUATEMALAN AMBASSADOR TO PANAMA, LEFT FOR COLOMBIA, PERU, ECUADOR AND BOLIVIA. ALL BUT PONCIANO ARE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON BELIZE. OTHER DELEGATIONS WILL REPORTEDLY BE SENT TO THE REMAINING COUNTRIES IN SOUTH AMERICA, AND AT A LATER DATE TO EUROPE AND POSSIBLY AFRICA AND ASIA.

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5. COMMENT: TORRIJOS' RECENTLY RESTATED SUPPORT FOR BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE AND PRICE'S RECENT TRAVELS TO WIN GREATER INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BELIZE HAVE PROMPTED PRESS CRITICISM OF FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR NOT DOING MORE TO WIN SUPPORT FOR GOG CASE. GOG IS ALSO CONCERNED THAT SOME ANTI-GUATEMALAN INITIATIVE MAY BE TAKEN AT COMING OASGA. THIS "DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE" APPEARS TO BE THE RESPONSE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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